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Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session

Observer status for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly

Letter dated 24 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly". A letter from the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization addressed to you is enclosed, together with an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (annex II).

I further have the honour to request that the present letter, the letter from the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

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Enclosure

3 February 2004

The secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was officially inaugurated in Beijing in January 2004. This marked the start of the operation of SCO as an international organization in its full sense. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending your representative to attend the inauguration ceremony and make a heart-warming speech.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization regards the maintenance of peace and stability and the facilitation of economic development in the region as its mission. It is committed to strengthening mutual trust and good-neighbourliness among its members and promoting the establishment of a democratic, just and rational new international political and economic order.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization strictly observes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and stands for maintaining the authority of the United Nations and its irreplaceable role in international affairs. It is ready to hold various forms of dialogue, exchange and cooperation with the United Nations and its special committees on issues of mutual interest and work together with them for world peace and development. In this context, I wish to officially apply, on behalf of SCO, for the status of observer in the United Nations General Assembly and hope to receive your support and assistance.

I am convinced that after becoming an observer in the General Assembly, SCO will take a more active part in international affairs, conduct wider cooperation with the United Nations and other countries and international organizations, and make its due contribution to maintaining regional and world peace and security and boosting regional economic growth. SCO will work tirelessly to this end.

(*Signed*) **Zhang** Deguang
Secretary-General
Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

On 15 June 2001, the heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan met in Shanghai, China, and declared the founding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In June 2002, the SCO Charter was signed at the St. Petersburg summit. The Charter made clear stipulations on the purposes, principles, organizational structure, form of operation, cooperation orientation and external relations of SCO.

The main purposes of SCO are strengthening mutual trust, good-neighbourliness and friendship among member States; developing their effective cooperation in their political affairs, economic issues, trade, science and technology, culture, education, energy, transportation, environmental protection and other fields; working together to maintain and guarantee regional peace, security and stability; and promoting the creation of a new international political and economic order featuring democracy, justice and rationality.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization advocates and observes the Shanghai Spirit, characterized by mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, cooperation, respect for diversified civilizations and common development.

Since its founding two years ago, SCO has achieved gratifying results in the improvement of its institutional set-up and legal framework. More than 20 legal documents have been adopted to standardize the operation of the Organization. SCO has also established meeting mechanisms for heads of State, heads of Government, ministers for foreign affairs, defence, commerce, culture and transportation, leading officials responsible for law enforcement, security, border defence, procuratorial work, and emergency and disaster relief. With the formal launching of the secretariat based in Beijing and the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure based in Tashkent, SCO has completed its initial phase of development.

Security and economic cooperation are two priorities of SCO. SCO security cooperation focuses on the fight against three forces, namely, terrorism, separatism and extremism, in order to maintain regional peace and stability. As the first international organization that explicitly advocates combating the above-mentioned "three forces", SCO adopted the Shanghai Convention against Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism upon its inception. Later, bilateral and multilateral joint anti-terrorism military exercises were successfully conducted within the SCO framework. At present, SCO is intensifying research on cooperative actions against narcotic drugs and preparing relevant documents for signing. For economic cooperation, the heads of Government of the six member States met in September 2001 to launch the negotiation process of trade and investment facilitation. The SCO heads of Government ratified the Plan for Multilateral Economic and Trade Cooperation of the SCO Member States in September 2003. The Plan explicitly identified priority areas, main tasks at the present stage and implementation mechanisms for economic and trade cooperation among the six SCO member States, and defined the goal of gradually realizing the free flow of goods, capital, service

and technology among them, reflecting the aspirations and determination of the member States in regional economic integration.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization follows the principles of non-alignment, openness and not targeting any other country or region. It stands ready to conduct dialogue, exchanges and cooperation in all forms with other nations and international organizations. SCO will accept countries recognizing its purposes and principles first as observers, then dialogue partners and finally, new member States, on the basis of reaching consensus through consultations. At present, SCO is preparing legal documents in this connection.

The founding of SCO has attracted worldwide attention. A number of countries and international organizations have proposed to establish contacts and conduct exchanges and cooperation with SCO. The United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States were represented at the ceremony of the establishment of the SCO secretariat. The Secretary-General, Zhang Deguang, met with their representatives respectively and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation with them. Representatives of SCO were also invited to attend anti-terrorism conferences of international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

With the concerted efforts of its member States, SCO is growing into an effective cooperation mechanism for the maintenance of regional security and stability and the promotion of the common development of its member States. In the future, SCO will surely become an important force in enhancing world peace and development.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

1. *Decides* to invite the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.